AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing an anti-tumor response in a mammalian subject, said method comprising:

isolating proliferating dendritic cells from bone marrow, lymph or blood, or, preparing said proliferating dendritic cells by differentiating in vitro precursors isolated from bone marrow, lymph or blood;

fusing the dendritic cells with tumor cells to form dendritic cell/tumor cell hybrids; and

administering to said subject a plurality of said dendritic cell/tumor cell hybrids, wherein said dendritic cell is not a T-lymphocyte~~,~~ or B-lymphocyte~~, monocyte/macrophage or another non-dendritic cell present in enriched or purified dendritic cell preparations~~.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the plurality of hybrids is further induced to express the dendritic cell characteristics before using said hybrids for the production of an anti-tumor response.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein said dendritic cell characteristics are chosen from the group consisting of dendritic cell morphology, dendritic cell surface markers or dendritic cell activation markers and immune cell activation properties *in vitro*.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein said induction is performed using GM-CSF.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the plurality of hybrids is treated to prevent proliferation before using said hybrids for the production of an anti-tumor response.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein said treatment occurs by irradiation.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said plurality of hybrids is administered by injection.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein said injection is carried out parenterally.

18-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said dendritic cell is of myeloid origin.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said dendritic cell is of lymphoid origin.

24-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the dendritic cell and/or the tumor cell is human in origin.

30-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 31~~claim 1, wherein said dendritic cells are prepared~~proliferation is induced~~ by culturing ~~DC~~ said precursors in the presence of cytokines so as to induce differentiation.

39-50. (Cancelled)

51. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the dendritic cells are isolated from bone marrow, lymph, or blood obtained from the mammalian subject in need of treatment.

52. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the dendritic cell /tumor cell hybrids to obtain a dendritic cell/ tumor cell hybridoma, wherein the dendritic cell/tumor cell hybridoma is administered to said subject.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

Inventor presented exhibit with data.

Identification of Claims Discussed

all pending

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

Guo, et al.

Sornasse, et al.

Proposed Amendments

Amendment to claim 1 was presented which recited that DC are isolated from "bone marrow or blood" and that DC are "proliferating."

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

Declaration will be submitted based upon materials presented in the exhibit to show that DC isolated from sources of proliferating DCs efficiently produce DC/tumor cell hybrids and that fused cells were not generated very well from non-proliferating sources such as spleen.

Results of Interview

Applicants will prepare response which includes proposed amendments and Declaration based upon data discussed at the interview.